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8. FIRST RECORD OF AN EXOTIC BUTTERFLY LEOPARD LACEWING *CETHOSIA CYANE* FROM THE ANDAMANS

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The Red Lacewing *Cethosia biblis* (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera) is represented by two subspecies one each in the Andaman and Nicobar islands: Andaman Lacewing *C.b. andamana* and Nicobar Lacewing *C.b. nicobarica*, respectively (Bingham 1905; Evans 1932; Ferrar 1951). After the Tsunami of December 26, 2004, we observed a Lacewing which appeared similar to *Cethosia biblis*.

Later, the immature stages of the butterfly were reared and were found to be different from that of *Cethosia biblis* described by Igarashi and Fukuda (1997). The emerged adult was identified as *C. cyane*, a species not reported from Andamans by earlier workers (Bingham 1905; Evans 1932; Ferrar 1951; Khatri 1991).

The Leopard Lacewing is not restricted to just South

Andaman, but has spread to the Middle and North Andaman up to Diglipur. The native butterfly *Cethosia biblis* seems to be failing to compete with the exotic butterfly as it has not been seen in Andamans for sometime now. This is a matter of serious concern.

The Leopard Lacewing is a common butterfly flying throughout the Andamans. Its food plant *Passiflora foetida* is an introduced plant, which has spread to the South, Middle and North Andaman from Port Blair up to Diglipur.

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9. BIOLOGY OF NILGIRI TIGER *PARANTICA NILGIRIENSIS* (MOORE 1877): AN ENDEMIC BUTTERFLY OF THE WESTERN GHATS OF SOUTHERN INDIA

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Introduction

Parantica nilgiriensis (Moore 1877) is a near-threatened (IUCN 2010) butterfly endemic to the high altitudes of the Western Ghats of southern India, belonging to the Family Nymphalidae and Subfamily Danainae. It is restricted to the shola forests, south of Nilgiri Hills, in the temperate zones of the mountains, above 1,500 m, though

the species occasionally shows up in home gardens and open country to visit flowering plants. It rarely flies as low as 1,000 m (Larsen 1987). Though Wynter-Blyth (1957) and Kehimkar (2009) mention it as a common species, it has seen a rapid decline in the density of its population over the last few decades, owing to rapid destruction of its habitats, mostly due to tea-monocultures in the mountain ranges.